

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 355

To enhance the capacity of the United States to undertake global development activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2009

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To enhance the capacity of the United States to undertake global development activities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Increasing America’s
5 Global Development Capacity Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) foreign development assistance is an impor-
9 tant foreign policy tool in addition to diplomacy and
10 defense;

1 (2) development assistance is part of any com-
2 prehensive United States response to regional con-
3 flicts, terrorist threats, weapons proliferation, dis-
4 ease pandemics, and persistent widespread poverty;

5 (3) in 2002 and 2006, the United States Na-
6 tional Security Strategy included global develop-
7 ment, along with defense and diplomacy, as the 3
8 pillars of national security;

9 (4) in its early years, the United States Agency
10 for International Development (referred to in this
11 Act as “USAID”) had more than 5,000 full-time
12 Foreign Service Officers;

13 (5) in 2008, USAID had slightly more than
14 1,000 full-time Foreign Service Officers;

15 (6) the budget at USAID, calculated in real
16 dollars, has dropped 27 percent since 1985; and

17 (7) this decline in personnel and operating
18 budgets has diminished the capacity of USAID to
19 provide development assistance and implement for-
20 eign assistance programs.

21 **SEC. 3. HIRING OF ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SERVICE OFFI-**
22 **CERS AS USAID EMPLOYEES.**

23 (a) INITIAL HIRINGS.—Except as provided under
24 subsection (c), not later than 1 year after the date of the
25 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of USAID (re-

ferred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall increase by not less than 700 the total number of full-time Foreign Service Officers employed by USAID compared to the number of such officers employed by USAID on September 30, 2008. These officers shall be used to enhance the ability of USAID to—

(1) carry out development activities around the world by providing USAID with additional human resources and expertise needed to meet important development and humanitarian needs around the world;

(2) strengthen the institutional capacity of USAID as the lead development agency of the United States; and

(3) more effectively help developing nations to become more stable, healthy, democratic, prosperous, and self-sufficient.

(b) SUBSEQUENT HIRINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (c), during the 2-year period beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall increase by not less than 1,300 the total number of full-time Foreign Service Officers over the number of such officers at the beginning of such 2-year period to carry out the activities

1 described in subsection (a), contingent upon suffi-
2 cient appropriations.

3 (2) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
5 trator shall submit a strategy to Congress that in-
6 cludes—

7 (A) a plan to create a professional training
8 program that will provide new and current
9 USAID employees with technical, management,
10 leadership, and language skills;

11 (B) a staffing plan for the subsequent 5
12 years; and

13 (C) a description of further resources and
14 statutory changes necessary to implement the
15 proposed training and staffing plans.

16 (c) EXCEPTION.—If the Administrator determines
17 that USAID has competing needs that are more urgent
18 than the hirings described in subsection (a) or (b), or finds
19 a shortage of qualified individuals for such hirings, the
20 Administrator may reduce the number of such hirings and
21 use the available funds for competing needs if the Admin-
22 istrator submits a report describing such competing needs
23 and, if applicable, the nature of the shortage, to—

24 (1) the Committee on Appropriations of the
25 Senate;

1 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
2 Senate;

3 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the
4 House of Representatives; and

5 (4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
6 House of Representatives.

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